

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTNOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

BAUMGARTL, Gerhard
AEG Hausgeräte GmbH
Patents, trademarks & Licensing
90327 Nürnberg
ALLEMAGNE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 April 2008 (10.04.2008)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P-10806 WO	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/EP2006/003850	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 April 2006 (26.04.2006)
International publication date (day/month/year) 09 November 2006 (09.11.2006)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 May 2005 (04.05.2005)
Applicant ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION N.V. et al	

1. By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).

2. (If applicable) The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

3. (If applicable) An asterisk (*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b) (the priority document was received after the time limit prescribed in Rule 17.1(a) or the request to prepare and transmit the priority document was submitted to the receiving Office after the applicable time limit under Rule 17.1(b)). Even though the priority document was not furnished in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b), the International Bureau will nevertheless transmit a copy of the document to the designated Offices, for their consideration. In case such a copy is not accepted by the designated Office as the priority document, Rule 17.1(c) provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

Priority date	Priority application No.	Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office	Date of receipt of priority document
04 May 2005 (04.05.2005)	05 009 754.2	EP	07 April 2008 (07.04.2008)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Agnes Wittmann-Regis

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Form PCT/IB/304 (October 2005)

I/DL8SAFUL0

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P-10806 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/EP2006/003850	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 April 2006 (26.04.2006)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04 May 2005 (04.05.2005)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION N.V.			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 10 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 06 November 2007 (06.11.2007)
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Agnes Wittmann-Regis</div> e-mail: pt06.pct@wipo.int

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

International filing date (day/month/year)
26.04.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
04.05.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. A47L15/42 A47L15/50 D06F37/26 D06F39/08

Applicant
ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION N.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b(s)(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Norman, Pia

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4281



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

- ☐ the entire international application
- ☒ claims Nos. 21

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 21
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
 - ☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - ☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - ☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b).
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☒ See Supplemental Box for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
- ☐ paid additional fees
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
 - ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
 - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
 see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
 - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 18-20,22-24

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, Inventive step or Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	18-20,22-24
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	18-20,22-24
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	18-20,22-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)
and / or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)
see form 210

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2006/003850

Re Item III.

The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claim 21 is not clear.

Claim 21 refers to claim 1-16. Some of these claims, namely claims 6-10 contain non-searched subject-matter as they fall part of the second subject-matter in the reasoning und Item IV.

Re Item IV.

This Authority considers that there are 2 subjects covered by the claims indicated as follows, the separate inventions are:

Subject I:

Claim 18-24 directed to a liquid bearing domestic appliance.

Subject II:

Claim 1-17 directed to a replaceable component.

The reasons for which the present application has been deemed to contain 2 subjects which are not linked such that they form a single general inventive concept as required by Rules 13.1, and 3.2 PCT are as follows:

The prior art has been identified as

D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 -& JP 2004 254929 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 16 September 2004

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A dishwashing machine (1) with a sieve system (21,21a) which is provided adjacent to at least one of its surfaces (21a) with at least one antibiotic agent (6b).

Claim 18 is therefore not novel nor inventive.

It follows that the following technical features within each group of claims mentioned above makes a contribution over the prior art and can be considered as a special technical features within the meaning of Rule 13.2 PCT:

Subject I: No technical features that makes a contribution over prior art, see D1.

Subject II: A replaceable component **suitable** for a liquid bearing domestic appliance which comprises at least one antibiotic agent inside or on its surface and which **in use** can be fixed replaceably inside a rinsing tub, sump, outlet, outlet tube and/or insert of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance.

The problem solved by these special technical features can therefore be construed as:

- I: No technical features that makes a contribution over prior art, see D1.
- II: To keep the antibiotic agent on the replaceable component on a sufficient level.

Consequently, neither the objective problem underlying the subjects of the claimed inventions, nor their solutions defined by the special technical features allow for a relationship to be established between the said inventions, which involves a single general inventive concept.

In conclusion, the groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define 2 different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of unity of invention as defined in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT.

Regarding the invitation to pay additional search fees:

Subject I has partly been searched in an earlier application, namely EP 05009754. The search fee will therefore be reimbursed for this subject-matter. However, claim 21 refers to claim 1-16 which contains added subeject-matter which has not been searched, in comparison with the earlier application.

Subject II contains non-searched subject-matter. Furthermore it is considered as non-unitary with subject I. Therefore, the applicant is invited to pay an additional search fee.

Re Item V.

Referring to Item IV above, this examination regarding patentability will be based on subject I. Examination of subject II will be performed when the applicant pays the additional search fee.

1 Reference is made to the following document:

- D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 -& JP 2004 254929 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 16 September 2004
- D2: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 462 (C-1101), 24 August 1993 - & JP 05 111451 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 7 May 1993

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 18.

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A liquid-bearing domestic appliance (1) , in particular of a dishwasher, comprising a sieve system (21,21a) and/or a filter, which is provided, at or adjacent to at least one of its surfaces (21a), with at least one antibiotic agent (6b).

The subject-matter of claim 18 is therefore not novel nor inventive.

Also document D2 discloses the subject-matter of claim 18.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 19-20,22-24

Dependent claims 19-20, 22-24 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

See document D1, abstract, figures and paragraph 1,11, 12, 24, 33 and 38.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

International filing date (day/month/year)
26.04.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
04.05.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. A47L15/42 A47L15/50 D06F37/26 D06F39/08

Applicant
ELECTROLUX HOME PRODUCTS CORPORATION N.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Norman, Pia

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4281



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

- ☐ the entire international application
- ☒ claims Nos. 21

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 21
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
 - ☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - ☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 - ☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b).
- ☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☒ See Supplemental Box for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
- ☐ paid additional fees
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
 - ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
 - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
 - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 18-20,22-24

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, Inventive step or Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	18-20,22-24
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	18-20,22-24
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	18-20,22-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2006/003850

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)
and / or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)
see form 210

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2006/003850

Re Item III.

The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claim 21 is not clear.

Claim 21 refers to claim 1-16. Some of these claims, namely claims 6-10 contain non-searched subject-matter as they fall part of the second subject-matter in the reasoning und Item IV.

Re Item IV.

This Authority considers that there are 2 subjects covered by the claims indicated as follows, the separate inventions are:

Subject I:

Claim 18-24 directed to a liquid bearing domestic appliance.

Subject II:

Claim 1-17 directed to a replaceable component.

The reasons for which the present application has been deemed to contain 2 subjects which are not linked such that they form a single general inventive concept as required by Rules 13.1, and 3.2 PCT are as follows:

The prior art has been identified as

D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 -& JP 2004 254929 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 16 September 2004

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A dishwashing machine (1) with a sieve system (21,21a) which is provided adjacent to at least one of its surfaces (21a) with at least one antibiotic agent (6b).

Claim 18 is therefore not novel nor inventive.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2006/003850

It follows that the following technical features within each group of claims mentioned above makes a contribution over the prior art and can be considered as a special technical features within the meaning of Rule 13.2 PCT:

Subject I: No technical features that makes a contribution over prior art, see D1.

Subject II: A replaceable component **suitable** for a liquid bearing domestic appliance which comprises at least one antibiotic agent inside or on its surface and which **in use** can be fixed replaceably inside a rinsing tub, sump, outlet, outlet tube and/or insert of the liquid-bearing domestic appliance.

The problem solved by these special technical features can therefore be construed as:

- I: No technical features that makes a contribution over prior art, see D1.
- II: To keep the antibiotic agent on the replaceable component on a sufficient level.

Consequently, neither the objective problem underlying the subjects of the claimed inventions, nor their solutions defined by the special technical features allow for a relationship to be established between the said inventions, which involves a single general inventive concept.

In conclusion, the groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define 2 different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of unity of invention as defined in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT.

Regarding the invitation to pay additional search fees:

Subject I has partly been searched in an earlier application, namely EP 05009754. The search fee will therefore be reimbursed for this subject-matter. However, claim 21 refers to claim 1-16 which contains added subejct-matter which has not been searched, in comparison with the earlier application.

Subject II contains non-searched subject-matter. Furthermore it is considered as non-unitary with subject I. Therefore, the applicant is invited to pay an additional search fee.

Re Item V.

Referring to Item IV above, this examination regarding patentability will be based on subject I. Examination of subject II will be performed when the applicant pays the additional search fee.

1 Reference is made to the following document:

- D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 -& JP 2004 254929 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 16 September 2004
- D2: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 462 (C-1101), 24 August 1993 - & JP 05 111451 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 7 May 1993

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 18

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A liquid-bearing domestic appliance (1) , in particular of a dishwasher, comprising a sieve system (21,21a) and/or a filter, which is provided, at or adjacent to at least one of its surfaces (21a), with at least one antibiotic agent (6b).

The subject-matter of claim 18 is therefore not novel nor inventive.

Also document D2 discloses the subject-matter of claim 18.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 19-20,22-24

Dependent claims 19-20, 22-24 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

See document D1, abstract, figures and paragraph 1,11, 12, 24, 33 and 38.